

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO UPDATE THE BOARD ON THE STATUS OF THE PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINER SPILLAGE CONTROL REGULATIONS

The Air Resources Board (the "Board" or "ARB") will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider the ARB staff's update on the status of the Portable Fuel Container Spillage Control Regulations. This item is informational only: no regulatory action will be taken.

DATE: April 27, 2000

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: County Administration Center
Supervisors Chambers, Room 310
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California

This item will be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:30 a.m. on April 27, 2000, and may continue at 8:30 a.m. on April 28, 2000. This item may not be considered until April 28, 2000. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before April 27, 2000, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

This facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accommodation is needed, please contact Mr. George Lew at (916) 327-0900 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (916) 324-9531, or (800) 700-8326 for TDD calls from outside the Sacramento area by April 9, 2000.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

In September 1999, the ARB approved the Portable Fuel Container Spillage Control Regulations. The regulations will reduce refueling emissions from equipment and engines in the off-road categories that are predominantly refueled with portable fuel containers, or "gas cans." By establishing a set of performance standards to which containers manufactured after January 1, 2001 must adhere, the regulations will replace the current style of portable containers and spouts with spill-proof systems (containers and spouts) and spill-proof spouts.

During the September Board hearing manufacturers expressed concerns about their ability to effectively meet the proposed permeation standard for plastic portable fuel containers. The Board approved the permeation standard and simultaneously directed the ARB staff to provide a status report on the manufacturers' progress towards the development of products necessary to meet the standard.

To assess the status of implementation of the regulations, staff reviewed the available information and discussed with individual manufacturers their progress in the developing spill-proof systems and spill-proof spouts. Staff has also contacted processors of various barrier surface treatments that could be used to meet the approved permeation standard for plastic fuel containers to compare costs reported in staff's original proposal with more current costs. Additionally, staff has conducted tests on the feasibility of increasing average container wall thickness to mitigate the effects of permeation from plastic portable fuel containers and investigated the feasibility of a fourth alternative for achieving the permeation standard.

Staff has concluded that several options exist for can manufacturers to meet the permeation standard and implementation date approved by the Board in September, 1999. All of the identified options are within the cost-effectiveness range presented by staff in the original proposal. Therefore, staff will recommend that the Board determine that no changes to the approved regulations are necessary.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS AND AGENCY CONTACT PERSON

The Board staff has prepared a Status Report that includes major findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Copies of the Status Report may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 2020 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990. To obtain this document in an alternative format, please contact the Air Resources Board's ADA Coordinator at (916) 322-4505, TDD (916) 324-9531, or (800) 700-8326 for TDD calls from outside the Sacramento area.

This notice and the status report are on the ARB Internet site for this program at, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/spillcon/reg.htm>.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Mr. George Lew of the Board's Monitoring and Laboratory Division, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, telephone (916) 327-0900.

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

The public may present comments relating to this matter orally or in writing at the hearing, and in writing or by e-mail before the hearing. To be considered by the ARB, written submissions must be addressed to and received by the Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, or 2020 L Street, 4th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, no later than 12:00 noon, April 26, 2000, or received by the Clerk of the Board at the meeting. To be considered by the ARB, e-mail submissions must be addressed to upspill@listserv.arb.ca.gov and received at the ARB no later than 12:00 noon Pacific Time, April 26, 2000.

The ARB requests, but does not require 30 copies of any written submission. Also, the ARB requests that written and e-mail statements be filed at least 10 days prior to the hearing so that ARB staff and Board members have time to fully consider each comment. The ARB encourages members of the public to bring to the attention of staff in advance of the meeting any questions or comments concerning this non regulatory item.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Date:

Michael P. Kenny
Executive Officer